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(11Jan82)

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D R A F T

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Leslie C. Dirks
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: Letter from The New York Times re FBIS

1. You have probably noted the 29 December letter from Bill Kovach of The New York Times to you which refers to the material on the Polish crisis from FBIS, which the Times has been carrying in excerpt form almost daily. I thought it might be useful to explain how the Times obtained this material in time for its daily editions.

2. Dave Binder of the Times has been picking it up at the State Department press room where the unclassified FBIS-monitored material is posted for accredited newsmen. Recently, we understand, Binder called Dale Peterson in Public Affairs to say he wanted to express appreciation for the FBIS material which they had found so valuable. Dale suggested he forward a letter to you; hence, the 29 December letter from Kovach.

3. Kovach's references to FBIS people being "especially helpful and cooperative" is of course overstated, to say the least. In fact, FBIS personnel are under the same injunction as the rest of the Agency not to

deal directly with media representatives, but to refer queries to Public Affairs. We of course assist Public Affairs where the material is unclassified and it seems prudent to do so. In this case, State's own spokesmen made the material available to the press. FBIS personnel have not been in contact with the Times in this crisis.

4. Nevertheless, I think the letter from the Times does underscore the value of overt monitoring in a crisis situation.

Leslie C. Dirks

